

REMARKS

Claim 26 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 26 is amended.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Lish and Hendrickson at the interview held September 27, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ebbesen, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Ebbesen in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0039604 A1 to Niu et al.(Niu). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 26 recites:

A method for producing an electronic device using a nanonetwork, comprising:
performing a modification treatment on multi-walled carbon nanotubes having at least two layers of graphene sheets, wherein...the modification treatment results in formation of a dispersion including a nanonetwork in which a plurality of the carbon nanotubes adhere to one another through the amorphous carbon areas;
and
applying the dispersion to a substrate to form a film including the nanonetwork,
wherein the nanonetwork is used for an electronic conductor of the electronic device.

Ebbesen alone or in view of Niu, fails to teach or suggest every feature of claim 26.

Ebbesen is cited for disclosing "a liquid phase purification for carbon nanotubes which comprises removing a nanotube material from the deposit, grinding the material with mortar and pestle, dispersing in sulfuric acid, and raising the heat of the dispersion to about 150°C." See the Office Action at page 3. However, as agreed to in the personal interview, Ebbesen fails to teach or suggest "applying the dispersion to a substrate to form a film including the nanonetwork," as required by claim 26. In addition, Ebbesen also fails to teach

or suggest at least the following features of claim 26: "A method for producing an electronic device using a nanonetwork," and "wherein the nanonetwork is used for an electronic conductor of the electronic device."

Niu is cited for disclosing "a process for the formation of nanonetworks comprising oxidized and crosslinked multi-walled carbon nanotubes." See the Office Action at page 4. However, Niu fails to overcome the deficiencies of Ebbesen. Specifically, as agreed to in the personal interview, Niu also fails to teach or suggest "applying the dispersion to a substrate to form a film including the nanonetwork," as required by claim 26. In addition, Niu also fails to teach or suggest at least the following features of claim 26: "A method for producing an electronic device using a nanonetwork," and "wherein the nanonetwork is used for an electronic conductor of the electronic device."


For at least the reasons discussed above, Ebbesen, alone or in view of Niu, fails to teach or suggest every feature of claim 26. Specifically, Ebbesen, alone or in view of Niu fails to teach or suggest at least the following three features of claim 26: (i) "A method for producing an electronic device using a nanonetwork," (ii) "applying the dispersion to a substrate to form a film including the nanonetwork," and (iii) wherein the nanonetwork is used for an electronic conductor of the electronic device."

Because Ebbesen, alone or in view of Niu, fails to teach or suggest every feature of claim 26, claim 26 is not anticipated by Ebbesen. Furthermore, claim 26 would not have been obvious of Ebbesen, alone or in view of Niu. Thus, claim 26 is patentable over Ebbesen, alone or in view of Niu. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 26 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PAC/brc

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